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problems and of individuals engaged in the investigation of war problems.

8. To maintain a bureau for the dissemination of up-to-date bibliographies of all forms of medical research bearing on war problems.

9. (a) Prepare lists of individuals and laboratories equipped and ready to undertake research at short notice.

(b) Prepare lists of individuals who will hold themselves in readiness to move from laboratory to laboratory to work for shorter or longer periods on special or emergency problems or to augment existing laboratory staffs in a group of selected laboratories.

10. To hold conferences from time to time in Washington or other central city for discussion of important research problems and methods of attack.

11. To hold military medical meetings from time to time, in the neighborhood of large cantonments for the discussion of medical problems by military and civilian physicians.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALLAN J. McLAUGHLIN, health commissioner of Massachusetts, has been recalled to Washington by federal authorities. He will become assistant surgeon-general in the public health service of the United States. As second in command he will have control of all the domestic health work, particularly with respect to the military cantonment areas.

MAJOR FRANK BILLINGS, professor of medicine in the University of Chicago, who was appointed medical adviser to the governor of Illinois, in the creation of the medical advisory boards, has been assigned to the Provost Marshal General's office in Washington. Major Billings' work is understood to be that of adviser to the Provost Marshal in connection with the medical problems under the Selective Service Law.

DR. DOUGLAS W. JOHNSON, associate professor of physiography in Columbia University, has recently been commissioned major in the Intelligence Section of the National Army, and expects to leave for Europe on a special mission for the government.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM B. HERMS, associate professor of parasitology and acting head of the department of entomology, University of California, has been appointed captain in the Sanitary Corps, National Army, and has been ordered to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for duty. Captain Herms was actively engaged during the past summer and autumn in investigating the sanitation of military camps in the western department, particularly as regards mosquitoes and flies.

DR. PAUL H. M.-P. BRINTON, professor of analytical chemistry in the University of Arizona, has been commissioned captain in the Ordnance Reserve.

ALBERT T. POFFENBERGER, Ph.D., instructor in psychology in Columbia University, has been commissioned a captain in the Sanitary Corps of the National Army and will be assigned to the psychological examination of recruits.

DR. DENNIE H. UDALL, professor of medicine and superintendent of the ambulatory clinic of the New York State Veterinary College, has been made a major in the Veterinary Corps of the National Army and has asked for a leave of absence for the duration of the war. Dr. W. E. Muldoon, assistant professor of materia medica of the same institution, has also been commissioned and has asked for a leave of absence.

CAPTAIN WALTER L. CONWELL, of Cornell University, until last June assistant professor of railroad engineering in the college of civil engineering, has been promoted to Major of the 307th Field Artillery, at Camp Dix.

A. P. MILLS, assistant professor of materials in the college of civil engineering, Cornell University, received his commission as captain in the Engineer O.R.C., and is awaiting orders.

POPE YEATMAN, consulting engineer of New York, has been placed in charge of the non-ferrous metals department of the War Industries Board, in succession to Eugene Meyer, Jr.

At the recent meeting of the American Association of Anatomists, held in the new Institute of Anatomy at the University of

Minnesota, Professor Robert R. Bensley, of the department of anatomy at the University of Chicago, was elected president of the association.

THE Nashville Natural Science Society was organized in the early autumn of 1917 by persons professionally engaged in natural science work, not including physics and chemistry. Its purpose is the advancement of science in Tennessee, and especially, in the vicinity of Nashville. The following officers were elected for the academic year 1917-18: *President*, Dr. R. M. Strong, Vanderbilt University Medical school; *Vice-president*, Dr. Edward E. Reinke, Vanderbilt University; *Secretary-treasurer*, Mr. J. M. Shaver, Peabody College; *Members of Executive Council*, Dr. A. E. Parkins, Peabody College, Dr. George M. Curtis, Vanderbilt Medical School, Mr. L. V. Silvester, Vanderbilt University.

DR. HENRI M. AMI, Canadian geologist and paleontologist, has been elected vice-president of the Geological Society of France for the year 1918, at its last meeting held in Paris. Emmanuel de Margerie, secretary of the society, in communicating the information states that the Geological Society of France desires by this choice, not only to express the esteem in which Dr. Ami himself and his work in geology are held, but also the full gratitude and the admiration of the people of France for his generous country. He adds:—"Vive le Canada! whose sons are fighting so gloriously for the defence of the Liberty of the World."

NICHOLAS KOZELOFF, Ph.D. (Rutgers, 1917), has been appointed bacteriologist of the Louisiana Sugar Station, to succeed W. L. Owen.

DR. GEORGE E. HALE, director of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and chairman of the National Research Council, gave the second lecture in the series on science in relation to the war before the Washington Academy of Science on February 21. The subject of the lecture was "Astronomy and war."

AUTHORITIES possessing an intimate knowledge of the chemical and allied industries of China will deliver illustrated talks at a joint meeting of the New York Sections of the American Electrochemical Society, Society of Chemical Industry and American Chemical Society, on March 1. The meeting will be held in Rumford Hall, Chemists' Club. One of the speakers will be H. K. Richardson, who will speak on "A chemist's view of the native industries of China."

DR. EDMUND ARTHUR ENGLER, for twenty years professor of mathematics at Washington University, St. Louis, and for ten years president of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and president of the Academy of Science of St. Louis at the time of his death, died after a brief illness on January 16, aged sixty-one years.

DR. CLARK BELL, long president of the Medico-Legal Society, New York, died on February 22, at the age of eighty-five years.

PROFESSOR LEVI M. UMBACH, professor of biology at North-Western College since 1884, died on January 27. Mr. Umbach was born in Ontario on July 15, 1853, graduated from North-Western College in 1877, and since 1884 has been teaching continuously in North-Western College with the exception of one year. Since 1888 he has held the chair of biology in the college. Professor Umbach's chief interest lay in botany, especially systematic botany. He was chiefly instrumental in gathering the herbarium of North-Western College, containing some 40,000 specimens. He was especially well acquainted with the flora of the central west, Ontario, and of the northwest, and discovered a large number of new species of plants, one of which bears his name, "*Fontinalis Umbachii* Cardot."

A WAR RESEARCH BOARD to centralize all government work now being done at Cornell University has been organized by the board of trustees, and President Jacob Gould Schurman has been requested to name three members of the university faculty. This board will have full charge of all work which the government wishes Cornell to do.

At the meeting of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota on January 18, a proposal by E. C. Kendall and Drs. W. L. and Charles H. Mayo to grant and convey to the University of Minnesota certain rights under letters patent of a discovery by Dr. Kendall of an agent for the treatment of diseases, which has been by him designated "Thyroxin," was submitted, and it was voted to appoint the president, the dean of the department of medicine and Dr. Rowntree a committee to consider the proposed agreement and report to the board.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of General Horace W. Carpenter, a trustee of Columbia University, who died on January 21, at the age of ninety-two years, his residuary estate is divided between Columbia University and Barnard College, providing, it is said, over a million dollars for each institution. Bequests are also made to Columbia University of about \$100,000 for the Dean Lung department of Chinese and about \$200,000 to the medical school. Barnard College receives \$200,000 for scholarships, and \$100,000 is bequeathed to the University of California. There are also bequests to hospitals and for other public purposes.

FOLLOWING the monthly meeting of the Yale corporation it was announced that Professor Russell H. Chittenden had been reappointed director of the Sheffield Scientific School for a term of five years, as requested by the governing board.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM A. RILEY, since 1912 professor of insect morphology and parasitology in the college of agriculture of Cornell University, has been elected professor of parasitology and chief of the division of economic zoology in the University of Minnesota, and will take up his duties there at the beginning of the next academic year.

DR. JOHN H. HAMILTON, of Albany, N. Y., has been called to the State University of Iowa to succeed Dr. M. F. Boyd, as professor of preventive medicine and state epidemiologist.

MR. THOMAS J. MCCARTER, M.A. (Texas, 1916), has been appointed professor of physics

in North-Western College, vice Mr. C. C. Van Voorhis, resigned. Mr. McCarter formerly held a position in the faculty in the University of Texas and more recently with the Bureau of Standards at Washington, D. C.

FRED G. ALLEN, of Erie, Pa., a graduate of the University of Toronto, has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering at Lafayette College to take the place left vacant by the resignation of E. D. Tanzer, who has become assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

DR. JOHN T. BLACK, commissioner of health of the State of Connecticut, and Dr. Walter H. Brown, health officer of Bridgeport, have been appointed lecturers on public health at Yale University for the next year.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE DIMINUTION OF THE ANTARCTIC ICE CAP AND THE AMELIORATION OF CLIMATE

IN a recent number of *SCIENCE*, Marsden Manson<sup>1</sup> has directed attention to the highly important scientific results of the Antarctic expeditions under Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton, and has succinctly stated several broad generalizations based upon the data thus obtained. From the majority of these conclusions few glacialists would dissent, but exception must be taken to the main theme that the present diminution of the Antarctic ice cap proves the climate of the world to be undergoing a rise in temperature which will enable the "moss of polar wastes" to "be replaced by rye and wheat."

The position of the margin of ice sheet or valley glacier is a compromise between two factors: the forward or outward motion of the ice, and depletion resulting from melting or from wave action. The ice front advances when the former exceeds the latter; it retreats when the relations are reversed. Variations in the rate of movement of the ice depend upon changes in temperature and in supply of new ice formed from snow. A dry glacier is a

<sup>1</sup> "The Bearing of the Facts Revealed by Antarctic Research upon the Problems of the Ice Age," *SCIENCE*, N. S., Vol. 46, pp. 639, 640, December 28, 1917.